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For Immediate Release Senator Joyce Waddell's " Biennial Session"

Clarrissa Greene (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljin@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 4:17 PM

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**From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 11, 2018

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Charlotte, NC- The North Carolina General Assembly 2019-2020 biennial session first day convened on Wednesday, January 9, as a ceremonial day to swear in members of both the Senate and House. There are a total of 170 members combined selected in both chambers, this number includes 26 new House members and 13 new Senate members that will be serving their first term in the 2019-2020 session.

The first day also provided time to navigate organization for leadership and elect members for roles that contribute to the daily functions of session days. The Senate Democratic Caucus elected Senator Dan Blue, D-Wake, to serve a fifth term as minority leader. Serving a third term as caucus secretary will be Sen. Ben Clark, D-Hoke, and Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, D-Wake, has been elected as the new Senate Democratic whip. Senator Joyce Waddell has been reelected as Chaplain to the Black Caucus. In addition, Senator Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, will serve a fifth two- year term as Senate President Pro Tempore after being re-elected as the chamber leader.

Issues that remain a top priority across the state include: Making schools safer, improving student performance, raising teacher salaries, boosting the state economy and preparing better for future storms. State leaders mentioned these as some key areas where Republicans and Democrats could work together.

The House and the Senate adjourned until Jan. 30 which will be the first working day of the 2019-2020 session.

"I am honored to be re-elected as Chaplain to the Black Caucus and ready to start this session continuing to work for the people who elected me to serve." Said Senator Joyce Waddell